



Riverina Regional Library

Annual
Report

2023-2024

RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024

ABOUT RRL

The Riverina Regional Library (RRL) is the largest regional library service in NSW. It has been in operation since 1978 and provides library services to approximately 85,166 constituents of 10 local government areas.

The service consists of 19 static library branches and a mobile library that serves 21 communities in 6 local government areas.



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Acknowledgements

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bland Shire Council

Ms Alison Balind

Cr Monica Clark (Executive Committee)

Coolamon Shire Council

Cr Kathy Maslin (Executive Committee)

Mr Tony Donoghue (Executive Committee)

Ms Courtney Armstrong

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

Ms Penny Howse

Cr Trevor Glover

Cr Leigh Bowden

Federation Council

Cr Aaron Nicholls (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Adrian Butler

Cr Sally Hughes

Greater Hume Council

Cr Annette Schilg

Ms Evelyn Arnold

Junee Shire Council

Mr James Davis

Cr Pam Halliburton (Chairperson)

Leeton Shire Council

Cr Michael Kidd

Ms Michelle Evans

Lockhart Shire Council

Cr Frances Day

Cr Peter Sharp

Mr Peter Veneris (Executive Committee)

Snowy Valleys Council

Ms Allison Dennis

Cr Julia Ham

Temora Shire Council

Cr Claire McLaren

Ms Elizabeth Smith

Cr Belinda Bushell

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the Riverina Regional Library (RRL) Annual Report for the 2023-2024 year.

The past twelve months have provided an opportunity to demonstrate once again that the RRL organisation has continued to thrive beyond expectations both operationally and financially. The success of this collaboration in the delivery of library services to our region is an honourable achievement for all concerned.

Following almost two years of legal proceedings, the dispute regarding distribution of RRL assets, following the withdrawal of Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) from the service in June 2022, was finally resolved by negotiation between the parties in January 2024. WWCC and RRL member councils are pleased with the fair and equitable outcome and, more importantly, that the organisation can now move forward and continue to provide valuable library services to our libraries.

RRL has continued to focus on maintaining its reputation as a leader in library service provision by contributing to NSW library networks and forums, and further connecting our communities as administrators for shared resource syndicates.

Since it was established in 1978, RRL has grown to become widely recognised throughout Australian library institutions and has welcomed many new councils at various times throughout its history. It is with tremendous excitement that we have welcomed Berrigan Shire Council into the network from 1 July 2024 – increasing the numbers to 11 member councils, 22 branch libraries and 18 mobile library service points.

The absolute dedication and determination of staff at the RRL Administration Centre, branch library staff, and my fellow Advisory Committee members is gratefully acknowledged. Their commitment and continued support to this remarkable organisation is sincerely appreciated.



I am very pleased to commend the RRL Annual Report to you as a great showcase of what the RRL Administration Centre staff and member libraries have delivered over the year. This report highlights the importance of libraries as community hubs for the diverse populations in our region.

Cr Pam Halliburton
Chairperson
RRL Advisory Committee

MANAGER REPORT



In terms of organisational sustainability, Riverina Regional Library (RRL) has continued its focus on maintaining a flexible and scalable organisation that has facilitated the expansion of the enterprise over many years. This has demonstrated that the success of local government collaboration for effective service delivery is clearly achievable when an agreed philosophical and financially sustainable operating model is developed and implemented.

The transformation in the organisation's technological capacity during the past several years has been remarkable. This increase highlights the ongoing need for skills and capabilities in our workforce to ensure that optimal digital engagement is achieved across the RRL network.

Like all large organisations, RRL faces broad challenges in ensuring its digital presence and operating environment is as secure as possible. Cybercrime reports have increased by 13% each year since 2020 with 10% of the 76,000 reported security incidents in 2022 occurring in the State/Territory/Local Government sector. RRL has invested heavily in security over the last year with major changes implemented including multi-factor authentication; improved firewall and network restrictions; improved spam/phishing policies and utilisation of cloud driven threat detection.

RRL is also committed to improving the efficiency of operations with recent software releases that have enabled staff new avenues for workflow improvement. Utilising the Microsoft Power Apps platform, an application for internal use, has been developed for the Mobile Library. This allows the driver (or RRL staff) to single-click turn-by-turn navigation to a Mobile Library service point via Google Maps, including routing to avoid dirt roads. The app can also activate a simple off-the-road process to send notifications to members and extend any outstanding loans at affected service points.

Automating and reducing the weight of time-intensive tasks is a vital aspect of improving RRL service provision. Many staff workflows involve regular interaction with different systems. RRL will continue to invest in the Microsoft Power Apps platform to provide a single interface environment for many of these workflows, reducing task complexity by having the application do the interaction.

The RRL Book Club continues to thrive by servicing 47 registered clubs across the region this year. A review of the materials included in the kits and weeding of unpopular or old titles over the last year has garnered high praise from book club participants. Twenty-one new kits were purchased this year and are already experiencing high circulation. Weeded kits that were in good condition were given a second life, being donated to other library services or to branch libraries as individual items.

RRL staff also developed ways to provide low-cost kits for basic programs with a reduced staff time investment, and a more frequent review of kits to ensure quality and fresh resources are available to branches. School holiday programs and special interest weeks, such as Senior's Week or Book Week, received good media coverage thereby increasing awareness of these events in the libraries.

Raising awareness of the large range of services available in public libraries has been an unchanging hurdle for libraries in increasing membership. Utilising a combination of traditional and new format media outlets for promotion, RRL increased media engagement this year by building relationships and establishing the library as a source of consistent and high-quality stories. RRL or its branch libraries featured in 65 stories or articles by media outlets between January and August 2023. These features have been in radio, newspaper, and online article format. Additionally, RRL staff produced social media images, content and posters for branch libraries to assist in the promotion of events.

For many years the RRL Annual Branch Meeting has been held at least once per year at the RRL Administration Centre as a valuable and highly anticipated opportunity for branch library staff to participate in workshops, receive updates on RRL activities, and to share ideas and information with other branch library staff from across the network. In June 2023, the meeting departed from its usual format when it was decided to board a coach and take the meeting 'on the road'. The objective was to provide branch library staff with a first-hand look at some of the branches in our region who have applied innovative ideas in their library spaces. The event was so successful that branch library staff requested the same format for 2024.

RRL staff joined several branch library staff from across the RRL network to attend the NSWPLA Annual Conference and AGM in Penrith during November 2023. A major highlight for RRL was the inclusion of our Marketing & Engagement Officer, Katrina Roe, as a presenter on Day 2 of the program. Katrina's presentation titled: *Same – Making a Disability Normal* was so well received that she has been invited to participate again, this time as a facilitator, at the 2024 conference in Coffs Harbour.

There were changes at the NSW State Library this year as Dr John Vallance retired as State Librarian on 14 November 2023 following a six-year tenure that included an historic increase in Government support for public libraries. His successor, Dr Caroline Butler-Bowden, was announced on 7 November 2023. Dr Butler-Bowden brings with her over 20 years of leadership experience in large public institutions including as curator in state cultural institutions for over a decade.

There is so much more to look forward to in the new financial year – all starting on 1 July 2024, including the discontinuation of reservation fees; a new Mobile Library schedule that includes four new service points in Bland Shire, and the admission of Berrigan Shire Council to the network.

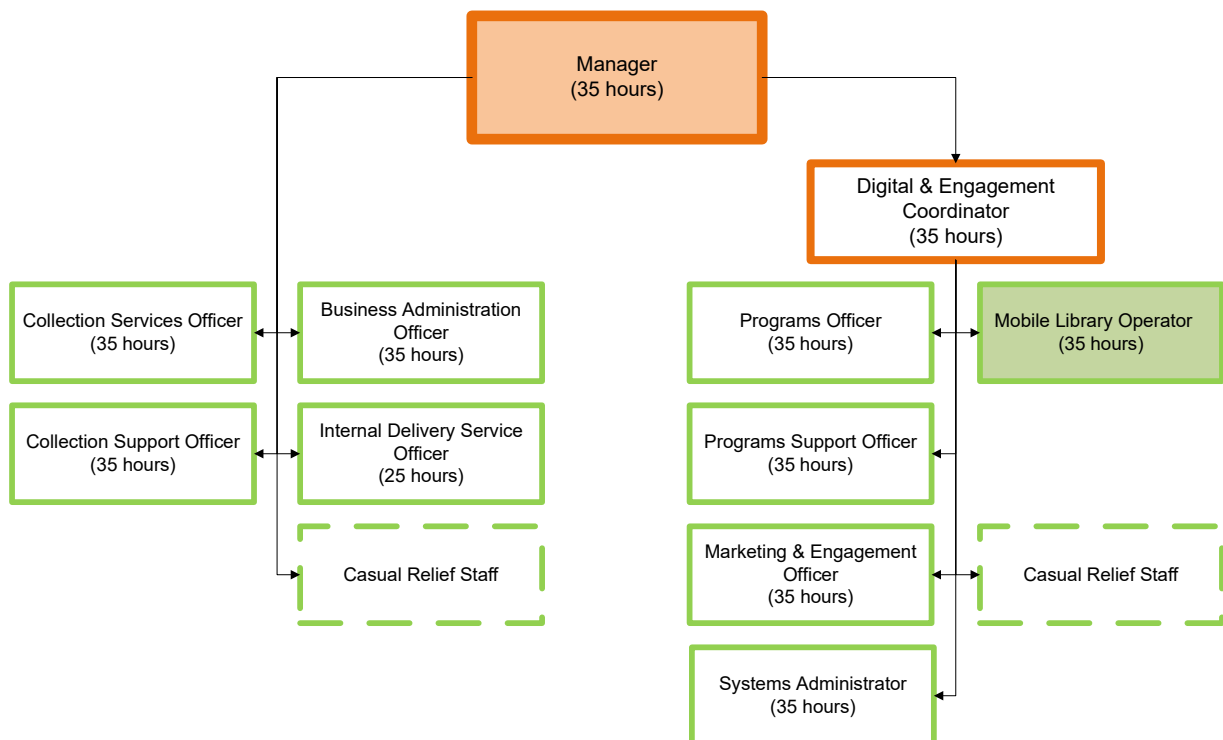
The RRL Administration Centre looks forward to working closely with its member Councils and branch libraries during 2024-25 to provide an inspiring range of library services for the constituents across our region.

Karen Wendt
Manager

ADMINISTRATION CENTRE STAFF

Karen Wendt
 Tracey Luhrs
 Cynthia Price
 Kim Mason
 Joel Reid
 Zac Armistead
 Sharon Smith
 Katrina Roe
 Jarred Pocock
 Charles Luyt
 Brian Plummer

Manager
Business Administration Officer
Collection Services Officer
Collection Support Officer
Internal Delivery Service
Digital & Engagement Coordinator
Programs Officer
Marketing & Engagement Officer
Systems Administrator
Mobile Library Operator
Mobile Library Relief Operator





DIVISIONS

MANAGER

- Administration and governance
- Collection services
- Strategic reporting
- Internal delivery service

DIGITAL & ENGAGEMENT

- Information technology
- Program development
- eResources & online platforms
- Statistical reporting
- Mobile Library

RRL NETWORK

OUR MISSION

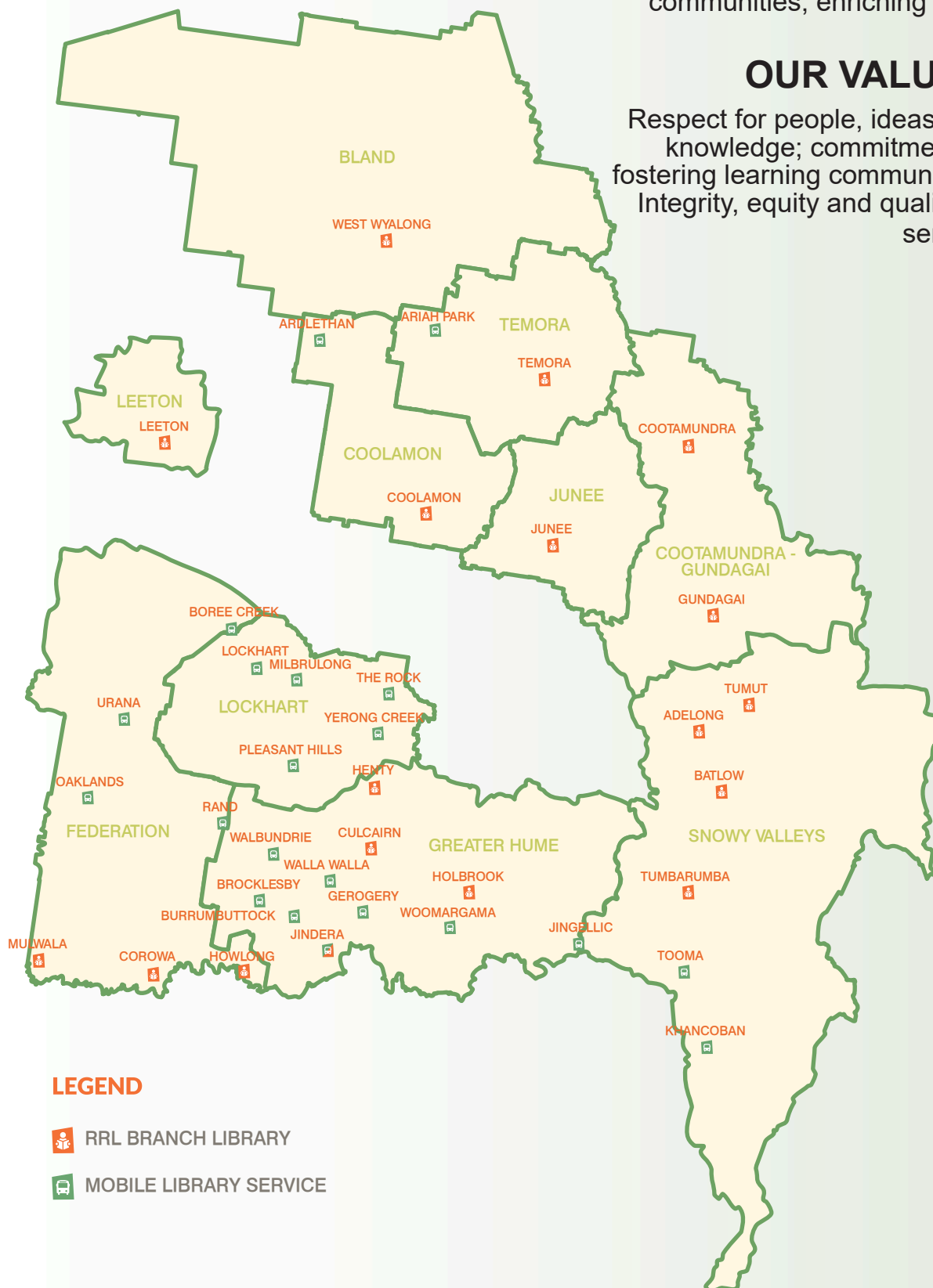
Creatively connecting people, information & knowledge

OUR VISION

Inspiring people, engaging communities, enriching lives

OUR VALUES

Respect for people, ideas and knowledge; commitment to fostering learning communities; Integrity, equity and quality of service



LEGEND

 RRL BRANCH LIBRARY

 MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

MICHAEL ELLIS - VALE

It was with great sadness that we farewelled our dear friend and colleague, Michael Ellis, who passed away suddenly in February 2024.

Michael was our Mobile Library Supervisor and a dedicated member of the Riverina Regional Library team for almost 8 years. Over this time, Michael's passion for the role never abated and he took great pride in the service.

He was dedicated to the people in the communities he visited, knowing how important the service was, especially in remote and rural areas. He offered an individualised service to all his library customers who always spoke highly of him. His significant contribution to the provision of library services around the region will be long remembered.



MOBILE LIBRARY



The Mobile Library collection was maintained regularly throughout the year with nearly 1,200 new items added, replenishing almost 22% of the collection, and the deletion of over 650 old items that have not been borrowed for more than 12-18 months.

After a lengthy recruitment process over several months starting in March this year, RRL welcomed Charles Luyt to the position in May. Charles had a quick introduction to the organisation and the Mobile Library before taking to the road without issue, getting to know members and coming up with great ideas for service improvements.

RRL's vision has been to broaden the offerings of the Mobile Library in the smaller townships that it visits by providing programs and events.

In January, the Mobile Library collaborated with NBN Co, hosting a free workshop on scams where members in Lockhart service point learnt about how to protect themselves from cyber criminals. This workshop was well received, and it is hoped that further workshops will be rolled out to other Mobile Library locations in the near future. RRL is seeking to partner with branch libraries and local organisations who have expressed interest in holding programs such as storytime sessions and school holiday events at Mobile Library stops. This is an exciting frontier for the branch on wheels!

ardlethan | ariah park | boree creek | brocklesby | burrumbuttock
gerogery | jindera | jingellic | khancoban | lockhart | milbrulong
oaklands | pleasant hills | rand | the rock | tooma | urana
walbundrie | walla walla | woomargama | yerong creek

11,569
ITEMS
LOANED

1,637
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

5,546
COLLECTION
ITEMS

11,423
LIBRARY
VISITS

MEDIA & MARKETING

Riverina Regional Library (RRL) has increased media engagement over the past year by building relationships to establish the library as a source of consistent, high-quality stories. RRL, or its branch libraries, have featured in an increasing array of stories and articles by media outlets including radio, newspaper, and online article format to raise awareness of the large range of services available throughout the region.

RRL branch library staff have noted that following promotion through media outlets, registrations and attendance at events have increased substantially leading to new members joining.

To further increase visibility, an RRL book review is posted weekly on social media with an accompanying image of representative branch library and RRL staff. These posts regularly perform well above the average as library members like to see their local branch staff member and often engage - increasing the post's reach.



The production of shared promotional materials reduces duplication of effort amongst the branch libraries and enables a consistent theme for an event's promotion. To this end, RRL staff have produced social media images and posters for branch libraries to assist in the promotion of events. These created images can be shared by the branch library on their social media channels, and posters are printed and displayed in the branch. This work is typically undertaken for events that are being held at more than one location, allowing reuse of materials with only minor details requiring amendment.



The RRL Marketing & Engagement Officer is also a regular guest on several local radio stations where library resources and events are freely promoted. Armed with previous radio hosting experience and a great deal of expertise, stories are solidly pitched to a region-wide audience.

The strategies applied to date are just initial steps with goals to include the introduction of a region-wide email newsletter for direct marketing, and the development of partnerships with local organisations.

PLANNING AHEAD



Riverina Regional Library (RRL) has been in the planning and development phase for much of the year on several major changes that will come to fruition in the new financial year.

Mobile Library Improvements



A comprehensive review of the mobile library timetable was instigated when notification of withdrawal from the mobile library service was confirmed with Greater Hume Council in 2022. This presented an opportunity for other Councils to take up the service or increase their service offering. Bland Shire Council requested the service for four service points in their shire (Barmedman, Tallimba, Ungarie, and Weethalle).

The review also presented the opportunity to make several improvements to the schedule, such as removal of overnight trips, revision of travel times and inclusion of rest stops for longer journeys, and minor restructuring of service days and hours to create more efficient routing. The new and improved timetable starts on 1 July 2024.

A New Member Council Joining



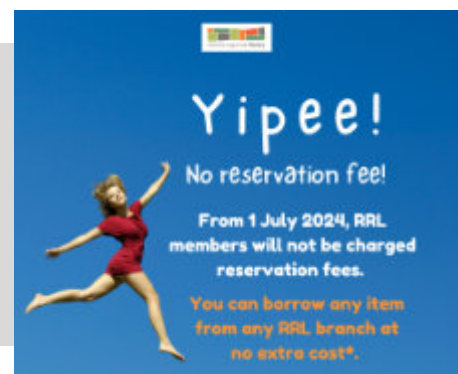
Berrigan Shire Council contacted RRL in late November 2023 to enquire about the possibility of joining the membership. A proposal and estimate of costs were prepared and in February 2024 a workshop was held with Berrigan Shire Councillors who agreed to the transfer of their library services to RRL.

A transition plan was developed by RRL management followed by several meetings held with RRL staff and Berrigan Shire Council/Library staff regarding all aspects of transition to centralised library services.

Berrigan Shire Council has a population of approximately 8,650 and four branch libraries at Berrigan, Barooga, Finley and Tocumwal. To accommodate the inclusion of Berrigan Library to the RRL Internal Delivery Service schedule, an extra day was added to the itinerary - extending the service from 3 days to 4 days per week.

Over the last several months, RRL staff have been assisting Berrigan Shire Library staff with the transition process and providing all necessary training. RRL staff also visited each of the Berrigan Shire libraries to advise on RRL policy, workflows, and collection maintenance.

No More Reservation Fees



Reservation fees were first introduced at RRL sometime during the 1980s at the rate of 20 cents per item. Today, the charge is \$1.00 per item. It is not uncommon, especially for regional library services, to apply a reservation fee for items reserved within their networks. The charge is not a cost recovery exercise to cover the expenses of moving items around the branches, but rather a nominal fee to ensure that customers pick up items held on reserve. Predictably, it is the newest and most popular items in the collection that are reserved most regularly.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, many libraries temporarily removed reservation fees as well as overdue fines to ensure their members could continue to borrow items unhindered. While some libraries have since reinstated reservation fees, most have permanently discontinued overdue fines - as did RRL from 1 July 2020.

Looking into the future of library service provision for our region, RRL has taken into consideration the trend of collections moving towards more digital offerings – a space where no reservation fees are applied. The physical and digital collections differ in their requirements for storage and transit, however, they are similar in their reservation demands.

RRL staff undertook consultation with RRL branch library staff during June/July 2023 and the feedback was unanimously in favour to discontinue reservation fees in the belief that the move would create better circulation, increased loans, and more visits to the library. Reservation fees will be discontinued from 1 July 2024 whereupon all outstanding fees will be waived.

ADELONG



BRANCH

BATLOW



COOTAMUNDRA



GUNDAGAI



BLAND



COROWA



HENTY



COOLAMON



CULCAIRN



HOLBROOK



LIBRARIES

HOWLONG



JINDERA



JUNEE



LEETON



LOCKHART



MULWALA



TEMORA



TUMBARUMBA



TUMUT



BRANCH LIBRARY STAFF

Adelong

Leticia Wishart - Library Assistant

Batlow

Robert Beegling - Library Assistant

Sarah Kynaston - Library Assistant

Bland

Cathy Lange - Coordinator Library Services

Heidi Robinson - Library Assistant

Joanne Blampied - Library Assistant

Sue Harmer - Library Assistant

Coolamon

Helen McLoughlin - Library Manager

Laura Munro - Library Assistant

Rebecca Keatley - Library Assistant

Cootamundra

Penny Howse - Library Manager

Lynne Thorburn - Library Assistant

Ellen Hazlett - Library Assistant

Rochelle Nicholls - Library Assistant

Alison Knagge - Relief Staff

Kerry Byrne - Relief Staff

Jody Graham - Relief Staff

Ariana Watts - Relief Staff

Kenneth Stanyer - Relief Staff

Kellie Holmes - Relief Staff

Corowa

Nicky Raleigh - Libraries Coordinator

Talana Lane - Library & Customer Services Officer

Lainie Johnson - Library & Customer Services Officer

Culcairn

Rebecca Disher - Customer Relations Officer

Tarran Slatter - Customer Relations Officer

Christie Thompson - Customer Relations Officer

Andrea Simmons - Relief Staff

Kaylee Mulloy - Customer Relations Officer

Lisa Schulz - Customer Relations Officer

Kacie Schuur - Relief staff

Gundagai

Cindy Smith - Library & Community Services Manager

Peggy Elliott - Library Assistant

Linda Wood - Library Assistant

Henty

Susan Kane - Customer Relations Coordinator

Andrea Simmons - Relief Staff

Debra Jones - Relief Staff

Kaylee Mulloy - Customer Relations Officer

Lisa Schulz - Customer Relations Officer

Kacie Schuur - Relief staff

Holbrook

Dominique Heriot - Customer Relations Officer

Carly Toll - Customer Relations Officer

Debra Jones - Relief Staff

Andrea Simmons - Relief Staff

Kaylee Mulloy - Customer Relations Officer

Lisa Schulz - Customer Relations Officer

Kacie Schuur - Relief staff

Howlong

Ann Farmer - Library & Customer Service Officer

Izabella Bizzotto - Casual Library & Customer Service Officer

Jindera

Betty Chaloner - Customer Relations Coordinator

Eileen Parascos - Customer Relations Officer

Andrea Simmons - Relief Staff

Kaylee Mulloy - Customer Relations Officer

Lisa Schulz - Customer Relations Officer

Kacie Schuur - Relief staff

Junee

Sam Perry - Facilities & Community Development Manager

Kylie Heffernan - Library Supervisor

Margaret Kanaley - Library Assistant

Matthew Glass - Library Assistant

Sue Preston - Library Assistant

Sophia Cameron - Library Assistant

Talia-Rose Fanning - School Based Trainee Library Assistant.

Leeton

Rachel Cody - Library Supervisor

Susie Rowe - Library Technician

Alesha Kelly - Library Assistant

Kiranjit Kaur - Library Assistant

Julie Halden - Library Assistant

Jo Kefford - Library Assistant

Lockhart

Charles Luyt - Mobile Library Operator

Andrea Morley - Mobile Library Assistant

Mulwala

Chris Boyd - Library & Customer Service Officer

Faye Glover - Library Assistant

Janine Stephens - Library & Customer Service Officer

Temora

Wendy Manning - Library Manager

Nicole Phillips - Library Assistant

Sharee Stewart - Library Assistant

Tracey Robinson - Library Assistant

Carmel Porter - Library Assistant

Jenny Walker - Library Assistant

Tumbarumba

Vicki Hulm - Coordinator Library Services

Yvette Epps - Library Assistant

Kathy Stewart - Library Assistant

Stephanie Hodge - Library Assistant

Tumut

Vicki Hulm - Coordinator Library Services

Sharon Thatcher - Library Assistant

Wendy Webb - Library Assistant

Jane Arragon - Library Assistant

Leticia Wishart - Library Assistant

Adelong

Snowy Valleys Council Network of Libraries

Adult Programs

This year the Adelong Library has been focused on providing programs for the adults in the community. The Adelong Book Worm Social Group was created, where booklovers get together every month to discuss current reads including what they enjoy, dislike, and recommend to one another. Additionally, the Library Craft Group meet each month where craft lovers take part in art and craft activities supplied by the library. Both programs have been regularly attended, with lots of opportunities for social interaction, friendly debates, and most of all fun!

Storytime

The library has continued to have Storytime twice a month to encourage a lifelong love of reading for the little ones in our community. These have been well-attended by families in the area, together with regular visits from both primary schools and the local preschool. During these visits the children enjoy themed stories and crafts before browsing the picture book collection and playing with the toys and games in the library. Additionally, we held a Mental Health Storytime in October, where a special guest from Murrumbidgee Health visited to read picture books addressing mental health to the children.

Author Talk

The library was fortunate enough to have author, Joileen Mischel, give a talk about her biography *Broken Past Heals Dreams*. In this book she shares her story of growing up with abuse and how, through resilience, she was able to go on to achieve her dreams. This story, while involving very difficult themes, was inspirational and motivating to hear. The author talk had good attendance by the Adelong community, and we want to thank Joileen for sharing her story with us.

Leticia Wishart - Library Assistant

1,600
ITEMS
LOANED

183
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

3,061
COLLECTION
ITEMS

1,417
LIBRARY
VISITS



Book Worm Social group



Mental Health Storytime

Batlow

Snowy Valleys Council Network of Libraries

An Essential Community Hub

The Batlow Library and Rural Transaction Centre has had a very busy year this year with 9577 visits, 4459 issues, 196 programs and program attendance of 1209.

We have provided seasonal worker and tourist assistance, Department of Human Services Access space and help, and many Council services provided to residents.

Many community groups have made use of the library's meeting spaces including Before/After School Care groups, Schools and the Early Child Learning Centre, Multi-Purpose Service Facility and the Batlow/Adelong Local Health Advisory Committee.

The centre provides a safe after-school space for children facilitating digital devices and referencing services for senior students.

Escape Room Challenges

One of the many programs offered this year has been our Escape Room Challenges which have been very well attended. Individuals and family or friendship groups were challenged to find clues to solve scenarios and thereby build up answers to finally provide the solution to the challenge and to collect their reward. It was great to see the varied cross-age groups and the fun everyone had participating in the challenge.

Batlow Beanie Knitters

Our knitting group - Batlow Beanie Knitters - have been in full swing creating wonderful beanies for chemotherapy patients which have been distributed far and wide to various health facilities who provide treatment and care for these patients. In addition, the group created hundreds of beanies for the Batlow Ciderfest in various apple colours and motifs. These were a great hit during the festival and completely sold out.

The traditional knitting of squares for the creation of warm winter blankets also continued and these were for distribution to charitable groups to distribute to people over the colder months.

The group has enjoyed great camaraderie as well as producing these amazing and much appreciated items.

Robert Beegling - Library Assistant

4,459
ITEMS
LOANED

436
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

5,260
COLLECTION
ITEMS

9,577
LIBRARY
VISITS



Batlow Beanie Knitters

Bland

Book with a Twist

To highlight Library and Information Week in early August, Bland Shire Library created a Book with a Twist photo competition funded from a National Backyard Cricket grant. The library received many entries across three age divisions, each being judged on their originality and creativity. Winners and placegetters in each division received prizes and all entries were exhibited in the library. Based on its success, the library plans to make the photo competition a bi-annual event.

Author Visits

The library hosted various authors throughout the year including sociologist and freelance writer, Dr Anne Ring, who delivered an enlightening talk, offering insights into the significance of ageing in our society. The event was held to highlight Seniors Week 2024.

The library was thrilled to host a visit from Dub Leffler, an illustrator, writer, animator, and mixed media artist involved in various artistic endeavours such as books, film, television, muralism, and art education. Dub embarked on a five-day tour of the Bland Shire in early March visiting nine schools, conducting 20 sessions, and engaging with some 700 students from Kinder to Year 10. Dub was warm and engaging, captivating his audiences with his detailed illustrations, realistic portraits and emotional landscapes, plus fun drawing exercises. Dub spoke about his Aboriginal heritage, the creative process and gave students a sneak peak of his next book.

Community Engagement

In 2023-2024 the library conducted over 300 program sessions and events. Our regular programs included Day Book Club, Gold Club for Seniors, Tech Savvy Seniors, Knit n Knatter, Lego Club, Storytime, Baby Bounce, and Pals of the Pen.

In May alone, the library held a Dolly Slumber Party to raise funds for Dolly's Dream, a book launch event, National Simultaneous Storytime, Biggest Morning Tea, and implemented a reading incentive program in partnership with the local High School ... and May was a quiet month!

Cathy Lange - Library Services Coordinator

16,286
ITEMS
LOANED

1,625
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

12,753
COLLECTION
ITEMS

28,850
LIBRARY
VISITS



Oatmeal
How to tell if your
cat
is plotting to
kill you

Over
1 Million
Copies in
Print

HOW TO TELL IF YOUR CAT IS PLOTTING TO KILL YOU



#1 New York Times Best Seller

Book with a twist Photo Competition

Coolamon

Drug & Alcohol Information Display

The Coolamon Library hosted the Drug and Alcohol Information stand in April and it was a great way to promote the drug information service to our community. The kit came with a variety of resources for activities and events, so we partnered with our local Community Drug Action Team committee and held an event for our local high school. The Coolamon Central School brought classes from Year 9 to Year 12 with approximately 120 students attending. We held a variety of activities including making mocktails, playing drug bingo, a beer goggle game, and a 'standard drink' educational pouring game. Prizes were awarded for the best mocktail and 'the know your standard drink' competition. Pamphlets and flyers were given out to students on the day, and we received great feedback from the school.

Local Government Week

The Coolamon Shire Council each year celebrates Local Government Week. It is an opportunity for our Council to highlight the work we do and the services and facilities it provides to our community. The library held two events during this week. *Storytime on the Road* provided Storytime sessions to the communities that were unable to attend our regular Storytime sessions in Coolamon. We travelled to Ardlethan and Ganmain Preschool for a reading and craft session for the pre-schoolers to enjoy. *Storytime with the Mayor* was held at the Library with our Mayor, David McCann, our special guest. Several schools and preschools attended this session.

Christmas Craft at Allawah Lodge

The library in conjunction with Allawah Lodge (our local residential aged care facility) provided a Christmas craft session for the residents. The craft was to decorate a Christmas wreath to hang on their doors. It was made from recycled book pages and then rolled into home décor wreaths. They decorated them with ribbon, stickers, and glitter. It was amazing to see the residents' confidence and self-esteem build during the morning. We even had three gentlemen complete their Xmas wreaths who had never been involved in any craft activity before let alone make a Christmas wreath. A very enjoyable morning was had by all.

Helen McLoughlin - Library Manager

12,912
ITEMS
LOANED

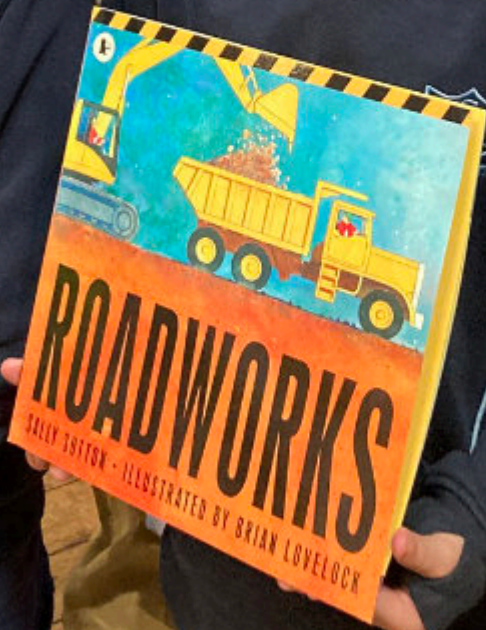
1,648
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

6,455
COLLECTION
ITEMS

15,327
LIBRARY
VISITS



David Bellamy
Mayor
2023-2025



Storytime with the Mayor

Cootamundra

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Network of Libraries

Renovations

Cootamundra Library has finally been fully renovated. Funding for this project came from a Stronger Country Community Grant and took 6 weeks to complete. Improvements included carpet and vinyl floor planking, public computers, cabinetry and circulation desk, lighting, blinds, painting, and furniture. A small temporary library operated during the renovation, allowing people access to computers, printing, and to borrow and return books.

Four paintings by local artist, Lyn Angus, were purchased. These depict the beautiful aspects and vibrant colours of the Cootamundra landscape. Now retired, Lyn was a casual employee at our library for many years.

The 'On the Road Again' RRL Annual Branch Meeting visited our beautiful new space where local guest speaker, Ellanah Bickerdike, talked about living and raising a young family in Fiji where she is passionate about her volunteer work.

Community Education

The library secured funding from the NSW State Library to run the Tech Savvy Seniors program designed to increase digital literacy in the older population. Sessions run by Kerry Byrne during February and June covered emails, online banking, shopping, and using the internet. Attendees preferred the one-on-one lessons, rather than small group sessions that were historically provided.

NBN Community Ambassador, Michael Palmer presented the Stay Safe online workshop in March for eighteen attendees. This was Michael's second visit to our library, and we look forward to him returning in the future.

Dr Anne Ring discussed her book *Engaging with Ageing* as part Senior's Week. Lunch was included and a \$50 voucher at a local business as a lucky door prize.

Law Week

The library welcomed solicitor Halil Ozbeyazli from the Seniors Rights Service in Sydney during Law Week to present a community seminar on *Aged Care and Nursing Homes: Your Legal Rights*. Halil provided insights to help residents and their families access justice with their rights to care, freedom of choice, financial protection, and freedom from abuse and neglect. We appreciate the Seniors Rights Service for their ongoing support of older people and their families in our local government area.

Penny Howse - Library Manager

30,712
ITEMS
LOANED

3,180
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

13,222
COLLECTION
ITEMS

46,509
LIBRARY
VISITS



HUNTING
for
DRAGONS

W Bruce Whatley

DANCING
WITH
DRAGONS

AMY DUNJE JESUS LOPEZ

GY
READING

Corowa

Federation Council Network of Libraries

Special Storytimes

During the past 12 months, the Corowa Library held some extra special Storytimes. At a very popular Teddy Bears' Picnic Storytime, the children were encouraged to bring along their special Teddy Bear friends, listen to the stories and join in a special morning tea on the mat. Some children, with help from their parents, also made the effort to come in costume which added to a fantastic party atmosphere. Halloween Storytime was also a big occasion. Children were very happy to dress up and make the most of an extra spooky Storytime. Our resident friendly witch, Talana, presented special stories and songs, and everyone had a great morning.

New Gaming Computers

New gaming computers have been installed at the library. During school holidays and after school, many of our public access computers are in high demand for gaming with school age students. It was decided that two of the new computers that were due to be purchased, would be aimed at the youth segment of our members. Money was allocated from the budget to purchase games and upgrade the computers to enable a better gaming experience.

A very successful Gaming Day competition was held in the October school holidays to launch these computers. Thanks to Simon and Michael from our IT department who were a great help in setting up this initiative.

Reptiles On The Go

The fantastic interactive reptile show - Reptiles on the Go - visited the Federation Council area in January. The show in Corowa was booked out and was a huge success. All the children and accompanying adults were fascinated to be up close and personal with various reptiles. Being able to touch the snakes, crocodiles and other reptiles was a great experience.

People are still asking if the reptiles will be back soon!

Nicky Raleigh – Library Coordinator

17,774
ITEMS
LOANED

1,443
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

10,619
COLLECTION
ITEMS

16,805
LIBRARY
VISITS



Culcairn

Greater Hume Council Network of Libraries

BillabongTech Group

Each week this year students from Billabong High School visited the Culcairn Library to provide free technology classes to members of the community. If the students are not helping with phones, iPads and laptops they could be found busily volunteering in the library assisting library staff with shelving books, playing the Virtual Reality Headset and doing the many jigsaws in the library.

The number of students who commenced at the library last year was around ten however students had so much fun in the library that word soon filtered through to other students increasing numbers who shared their enjoyment.

Creative Clay

Fourteen young members of the Culcairn community arrived at the library in September to take part in a Creative Clay event. The children were guided through the process of colours, patterns and style creating some amazing earrings and key chains. The event was enjoyed by all, and the children left with a smile on their faces and some wonderful craft items. It was great to see a diverse group of children participate.

Bollywood All Stars

The Coota Bollywood Allstars are a vibrant group of dancers founded by Fiona Braybrooks and made up of performers from Cootamundra and the surrounding Riverina region.

The group have performed extensively throughout the Riverina area and their Troupe Director, Fiona, has also taken the group name all the way to India, performing at several events.

The dancers visited the library during the January School holidays to educate, entertain and create awareness of multicultural inclusion. Over twenty participants ages 5 to 60 years were thrilled to take part in the Bollywood dancing and to also learn about the beautiful costumes Troupe Director, Fiona and the group wore.

Susan Kane - Customer Realties Coordinator

3,368

ITEMS
LOANED

524

LIBRARY
MEMBERS

3,485

COLLECTION
ITEMS

13,896

LIBRARY
VISITS



DEBRA TIDBALL



WOMEN'S AUTHOR

writing picture books,
stories, poems & plays

www.debratidball.com

Debra Tidball - Childrens Author visit

Book Week

Gundagai

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Network of Libraries

International Women's Day

International Woman's Day event at Gundagai library was attended by over 50 women for a light supper and presentation. Local Gundagai vet Kathy Blay, who has practised in the local community for the past forty plus years, was the guest speaker. Kathy gave an engaging and revealing presentation about the struggles and funnier moments of practising as a young female veterinarian during the early eighties in rural Australia. This was the first time Kathy had ever presented anything like this, being rather quiet and normally just focusing on the job she loves so much. Her talk was met with rousing applause from the very appreciative ladies.

Jack O'Hagan Book Launch

During April, the library was fortunate to host Jo Gilbert, the granddaughter of renowned singer/songwriter Jack O'Hagan, for the launch and celebration of her book *Along the Road to Gundagai, Biography of Jack O'Hagan and Birth of Australian Pop Culture*.

The town was made famous around the world through Jack and his timeless songs such as *The Road to Gundagai* and *Where the Dog Sits on the Tuckerbox*. Jo shared her cherished memories of Jack and his thoughts and fondness for Gundagai with an enthusiastic crowd.

STEM Day

During the autumn school holidays, the library was lucky to host three student teachers who assisted with the running of activities at the library. Among the different workshops the visiting students held was an open Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Day (STEM) in which children got to dive into the world of Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Robotics, and Electrical Circuits. The program was a hit, and the activities were enjoyed by over 130 children.

Cindy Smith - Library & Community Services Manager

8,930

ITEMS
LOANED

804

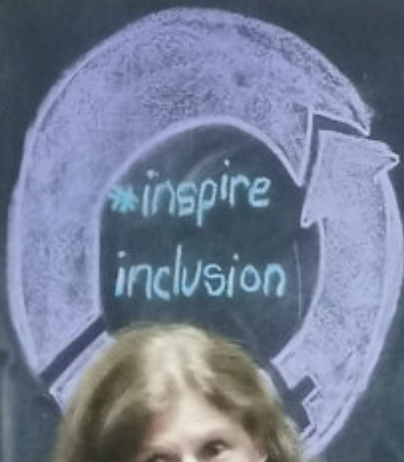
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

9,206

COLLECTION
ITEMS

13,046

LIBRARY
VISITS



International
Women's Day
Welcomes

Kathy Blay

B.V.Sc (Hon)

laga's very own

ry Practice Vet!

nce 1986



Henty

Greater Hume Council Network of Libraries

Library Renovation

In January 2024, Henty Library closed for two weeks for a redevelopment, renovation and refurbishment project. This was made possible by a NSW Government Infrastructure grant through the State Library of NSW. The main purpose of the project was to improve accessibility, functionality and inclusiveness of the library.

The refurbishment included new carpet, painting, furniture, upgraded restroom facilities and a new front entrance. The library is now a modern open space which is accessible and functional in line with the changing needs of the community.

Womens Week

The library held a series of events celebrating NSW Women's Week in March which focussed on inclusivity and celebration of the achievements of women across NSW.

With State Government funding, the library held free floral arrangement workshops along with scrumptious catering. These events were fully booked across all Greater Hume Council libraries.

Seniors Week

The library held The Festival of Seniors – Let's Get Together and Stay Connected in March. The aim of the festival was to bring together members of the community to enjoy new experiences, stay active and connected to the community. Five free expos were held during daytime in each of the Greater Hume Council libraries to ensure inclusion for all whilst fostering partnerships with local businesses, support services and organisations.

All the events included a free morning tea and lunch, and the NSW Government proudly funded this project.

Susan Kane - Customer Relations Officer

3,926

ITEMS
LOANED

521

LIBRARY
MEMBERS

3,897

COLLECTION
ITEMS

9,333

LIBRARY
VISITS



Holbrook

Greater Hume Council Network of Libraries

Books & Library Love

Holbrook Library hosted children's author, Debra Tidball, who helped celebrate Book Week. Debra introduced her latest book *Anchored* and engaged the children with some fun activities, including step by step instructions on how to draw the little tugboat character in her new book. With the Book Week theme, *Read, Grow, Inspire* in mind, the children then had the opportunity to enter the library's Book Week competition. The children were required to decorate a plant template with collage. Finalists were selected on their creativity and/or their attention to detail.

National Simultaneous Storytime was once again a great success. This year we read *Bowerbird Blue* by Aura Parker. Children from the library loved listening to Customer Relations Officer, Dom read this beautifully designed book. They were especially good at playing a memory game with blue 'Bowerbird like' objects and then had heaps of fun making a collage, grouping different colours.

Reptiles on the Go

Reptiles on the Go was such a fun and educational event. The children asked very interesting questions and learnt about fabulous Australian native reptiles in the safety and comfort of the library. The children were able to get up close and personal with animals such as fresh and saltwater Crocodiles, Pythons, Shingleback, Frill Necked and Blue Tongue Lizards, Turtles, Frogs and Monitors.

This was a fantastic event for the library which was very much appreciated and valued by the families who came along.

Shibori Workshop

A Shibori Workshop was held in the library which was most enjoyable and worthwhile. A fantastic group attended, and participants learnt this wonderful Japanese dyeing technique and left with their very own, beautifully created, Shibori designs.

Susan Kane - Customer Relations Coordinator

6,173
ITEMS
LOANED

643
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

4,858
COLLECTION
ITEMS

14,908
LIBRARY
VISITS



Howlong

Federation Council Network of Libraries

Community Hub

Howlong Library continues to be a busy place, the locals dropping in to borrow a book or magazine, have printing jobs completed or be assisted with tech advice on a day-to-day basis. Some new furniture has brightened up the seating area where patrons, can relax and read.

The official opening of the Howlong History Room was a great success in early August. After the official cutting of the ribbon, a fantastic morning tea was held which was a great catch up for the locals.

School Holiday Programs

School holiday programs continue to be popular at the library. During the September school holidays we ran a family friendly Board Game Day. Several new board games were purchased for this event and will be available to library patrons during future school holidays.

During the Summer school holidays Water Pistol Art was very popular. The kids had great fun outside using various techniques to turn their water pistol action into some great artwork. Some of the children even put their paint on the paper!

The local childcare centre has also been able to make a few visits to join in for Storytime sessions. The children have a great time and are very enthusiastic visitors.

Author Talk - Jackie Merchant

Jacque Merchant, children's author, presented her interesting talk about how she came to be a published author, moving from the world of marketing. Her life long passion for horses shines through her wonderful stories about horses, and the children and families who care for them.

Ann Farmer - Library Assistant & Customer Service Officer

5,072

ITEMS
LOANED

431

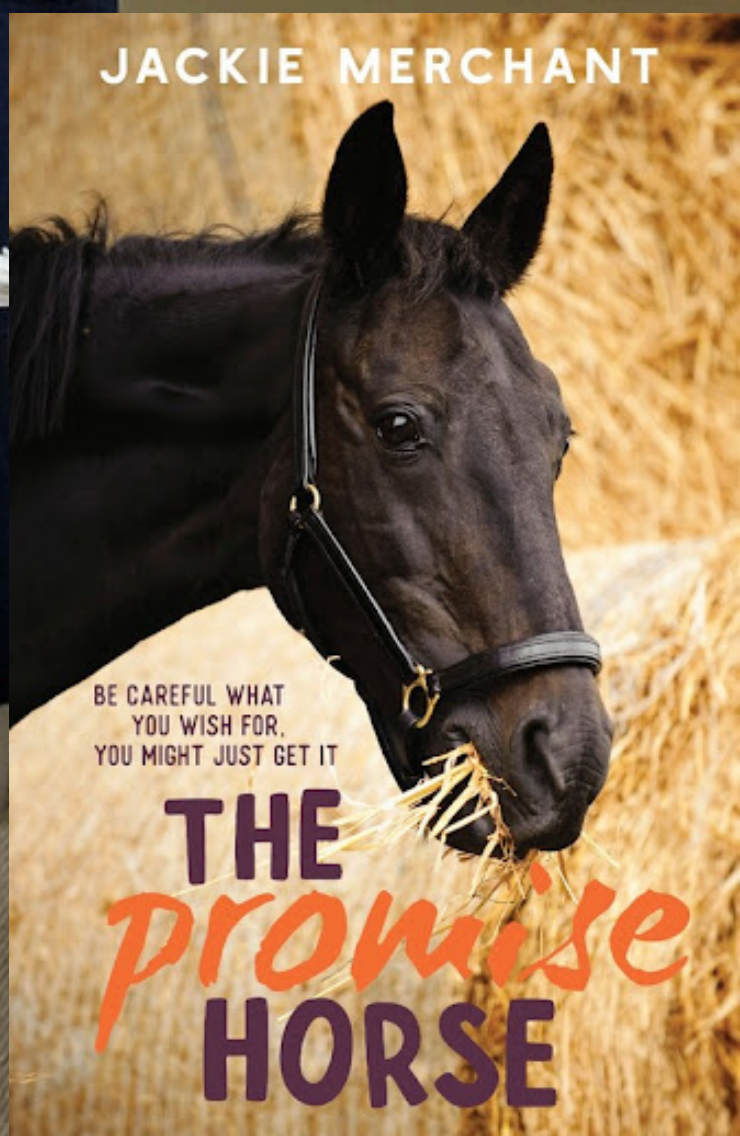
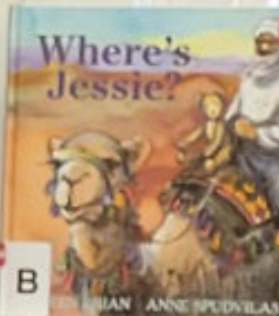
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

5,266

COLLECTION
ITEMS

3,538

LIBRARY
VISITS



Auhor Talk with Jackie Merchant

Jindera

Greater Hume Council Network of Libraries

Winners!

Greater Hume Council Libraries were again successful in winning the NSW Public Library Association's (PLA) Innovation in Outreach Services Award which was announced at the NSW PLA SWITCH Conference in November.

The award is in recognition of the high-quality outreach programs and services provided by public libraries across NSW. The award was for the Book Nook outreach program and included a prize of \$1,500 which will be used to provide training for staff in 2024.

Paint & Pizza

With funding from a Regional Youth Winter Holiday Break grant, the library held a Painting & Pizza program for young people at each of the Greater Hume Council libraries.

Painting is a way to convey ideas, express emotion, use the senses, explore colour, process and outcomes, and create aesthetically pleasing works and experiences. Greater Hume Council supplied healthy pizza options sourced from local cafes within each town.

Thank you to all the participants and the Youth Officer, Tarran on coming up with such a wonderful program.

National Simultaneous Storytime

National Simultaneous Storytime was celebrated at the library in May with preschoolers from Jindera Preschool visiting to listen to the Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker. After listening to the story, the children took part in an activity finding how many blue items Bowerbird Blue had found and put in her nest.

It was rewarding to watch the young children with a great love for reading and listening to stories.

Susan Kane - Customer Relations Coordinator

1,271
ITEMS
LOANED

203
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

1,439
COLLECTION
ITEMS

13,729
LIBRARY
VISITS



**Floral Arranging Workshop
& High Tea Women's Week**

Junee

The Knit-In Group: A Stitch in Time

Launched in August 2023, the Knit-In group has become a cherished fortnightly gathering. This vibrant group of women, ranging from beginners to seasoned knitters, convenes to share their love for knitting and community spirit.

Participants contribute to the "Wrap with Love" charity by knitting squares, while others focus on personal projects. Currently, the group is working on a special initiative: knitting cozy scarf and beanie sets for the Junee Community Centre's emergency relief packs. Each session is a blend of creativity, camaraderie, and delicious afternoon tea, making it a heartwarming and productive event that weaves the community together one stitch at a time.

Engaging in Ageing

One of the year's standout events was the visit from the acclaimed author, Dr. Anne Ring. With a turnout of over 25 attendees, the event was a resounding success. Dr. Ring captivated the audience with her engaging and entertaining presentation, skilfully weaving humour into the important topic of self-care as we age.

Her book, *Engaging in Ageing*, resonated deeply with attendees and flew off the shelves, underscoring the impact of her visit. This event not only highlighted the importance of health and wellness but also brought the community together for an afternoon of learning and laughter.

Summer Reading Challenge

The library was buzzing with excitement as the highly successful Summer Reading Challenge was launched. A whopping 105 children, aged 3-13, signed up to dive into a world of books and adventures.

The challenge, designed to encourage regular library visits, worked as an irresistible incentive program. Each child received a vibrant activity pack and a special bookmark with ten spots for stamps. Every library visit brought a new stamp and a step closer to exciting rewards. Prizes were awarded at the 3rd, 5th, and 10th visits, making each trip to the library a little adventure.

The response was phenomenal, with kids eagerly returning to explore new stories, participate in activities, and proudly collect their prizes. The challenge fostered a love for reading and turned our library into a vibrant hub of youthful enthusiasm and joy.

Kylie Heffernan - Library Assistant

17,172
ITEMS
LOANED

1,552
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

14,334
COLLECTION
ITEMS

19,083
LIBRARY
VISITS



F G

SHREK

**NEW CHAPTER
NEW DESCRIPTION**

**SUMMER READING
Challenge**

PLEASE READ ONE BOOK
DURING THE SUMMER
MONTHS!

1. READ ONE BOOK
2. WRITE A REVIEW
3. SHARE YOUR REVIEW

1. READ ONE BOOK
2. WRITE A REVIEW
3. SHARE YOUR REVIEW

★ ★ ★

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

READ ME

Summer Reading Challenge

Leeton

Author Talk - Andrew Skeoch

Leeton Library had the pleasure of hosting an author talk at our library in April where patrons had the privilege of learning about our environment and nature through the beautiful sounds recorded by Andrew.

His extensive knowledge of this area was exceptional. Some of the patrons that are a part of the Field Naturalists were blown away with his talk, some of them stating they could have stayed all night to listen to the sound recording and Andrew speaking.

Andrew's book "Deep Listening to Nature" is well written and you can also listen to the bird's song with the soundtrack that is attached to the book.

Tech Savvy Seniors

The Tech Savvy Seniors program aims to empower older adults in our community by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the digital world confidently.

The library delivered Tech Savvy Seniors training sessions for 3 months this year, trialling one-on-one sessions, so that each session was customised just for the individual. This tailored the session to the specific needs and interests of each patron. The training sessions could cover a range of topics, including computer usage, internet access, email communication, social media engagement, online banking, and shopping.

The patrons that attended the training sessions have already put their name down for the next time we run this program.

Community Compass

Along with a myriad of facilitated programs run by the library this year including chair yoga, brain games, information sessions for seniors, cyber security workshops, youth week events and school holiday programs, the library team decided to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone to address loneliness experienced by residents and patrons.

Whilst not being a facilitated program, Community Compass is a place to make new friends, enjoy conversations with the migrant community encouraged to come along to improve their English-speaking skills. The Community Compass is held the second Friday of each month.

Rachel Cody - Library Supervisor

19,192
ITEMS
LOANED

3,121
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

32,290
COLLECTION
ITEMS

22,060
LIBRARY
VISITS



PURE WESTERN
Est. 2010

Let the
Muggles
Get You
Down

Lockhart

Programs on the Go

In January 2024, the Mobile Library at Lockhart hosted a free Scam Workshop facilitated by NBN.

In 2022, Australians lost more than 3.1 billion dollars to scams, according to the ACCC. The workshop covered topics including types of scams, how to successfully identify and report a scam, who is susceptible and how to protect your personal information from cyber criminals. The workshop concluded with a morning tea and the opportunity for participants to have a one-on-one chat with the facilitator.

The weekly mobile library service point at Lockhart continues to be a well utilised and high performing mobile branch with much needed circulation support from Lockhart council staff member - Andrea Morley.

It is about to get busier with plans in place for Lockhart Preschool to visit the mobile library on a regular basis to borrow books and enjoy Storytime sessions and possibly other programs. The preschool is proposing to begin their visits in July this year and the Mobile Library is looking forward to welcoming the children as well as the opportunity to broaden it's services in smaller townships like the Lockhart community.

Charles Luyt - Mobile Library Operator and Andrea Morley - Lockhart Council



3,481
ITEMS
LOANED

378
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

5,546
COLLECTION
ITEMS



Scams Awareness Workshop



Mulwala

Federation Council Network of Libraries

Community Focus

Our prime focus as always is building community and once again Mulwala library is extremely active in exploring different ideas to engage with and encourage the community to be active members of the library and community in general. Participating in activities and growing friendships and knowledge along the way.

We continue to have a wonderful relationship with Mulwala preschool. The fortnightly visits from the preschool are still a highlight, and we are delighted that many of our previous preschoolers are now coming with family members to the library after school. The library is very fortunate to have Faye Glover as a valued staff member. She has been instrumental in organising crochet classes at the library. Just recently Faye has completed her Crochet Guild Australia Teacher Accreditation Certificate and as a qualified teacher, our crochet ladies have benefited enormously from Faye's talent and knowledge.

Our ladies have gone from never crocheting, to producing wonderful and more complex pieces. We thank Faye for her classes.

Library Events

Armchair Travel has been very successful again this year. Participants always enjoy the show, whether they are taken virtually to Taronga Zoo or to the Back of Bourke. The shows are fun and informative, together with a cuppa and commentary by the producer Rhonda Wheeler. Rhonda is venturing further afield to produce even more interesting shows, appealing to a wider audience in the near future.

Reptiles on the Go with zookeeper Sam, was another stand out event held in the library. Everyone was mesmerized. Sam was amazing, introducing all types of reptiles to our excited and sometimes scared patrons. All our events are inclusive and try to expose patrons to many and varied experiences. Other successful activities were *Water Pistol Art* and *Library Lovers' Day*.

Chris Boyd - Library & Customer Service Officer

4,963
ITEMS
LOANED

615
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

5,631
COLLECTION
ITEMS

6,153
LIBRARY
VISITS



TRANSIT

EXTINGUISHER

Temora

Intergenerational Preschool

Temora Shire Library staff, along with the students from A Dragons Tale Early Education Centre, visited our local aged facility, Greenstone Lodge in October.

Funded through the National Backyard Cricket scheme which aims to develop educational programs throughout libraries across Australia, Intergenerational Preschool ran every 3 weeks from October 2023 through to March 2024. Each session saw the bond between our young and old friends grow. The program will resume in August 2024, which has been made possible through securing another year of funding.

The Intergenerational Preschool program has demonstrated that it can provide meaningful engagement for all participants, increase self-esteem, and develop a sense of connection and friendship within a safe and secure environment.

Temora Loves Tea

Over the last 12 months the library has held multiple tea education events with local presenter – David Lyons – Director of the Australian Tea Cultural Society (AUSTCS). David travels the world educating university students and attending events to present these programs. David brings a vibrant and bubbly atmosphere to his workshops along with a wealth of knowledge and skills. Tea events held over the last 12 months include Japanese, chai, green and black tea workshops.

These programs are a great place for community connection, fantastic for all ages and provide a fun way to learn some new skills and taste test lots of different types of tea.

Library & Information Week

The library celebrated Library & Information Week in 2023 with a bookmark competition to bring the residents of our community together! The competition was open to all ages and the winning design was professionally printed, with the winner receiving a prize pack and bundle of bookmarks to hand out to their family and friends. Library staff handed out bookmarks throughout Library & Information Week to help promote and showcase the resources and services available to the community.

Wendy Manning – Library Manager

17,197
ITEMS
LOANED

1,553
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

11,925
COLLECTION
ITEMS

14,976
LIBRARY
VISITS



Tumbarumba

Snowy Valleys Council Network of Libraries

Community Reading Day

Young people from across the Tumbarumba area celebrated the joy of reading and learning at a Community Reading Day event held in April. Over 300 school children from the Tumbarumba region gathered at the Tumbarumba Library and surrounding Bicentennial Park for a day of fun and education.

This year's theme was Dr Seuss, with students, teachers and guests encouraged to wear crazy socks as part of the fun. During the day the children rotated through different activity stations and included arts and crafts, interactive reading, and games. Snowy Valleys Councillor Julia Ham led the day and the Snowy Hydro Education team travelled from Cooma to provide STEM activities.

KidsXpress sponsored local organisations - Inner You and Studio Drew - to provide a mindfulness exercise and students from Tumbarumba High School helped run the other activities and read to the children. Lunch was cooked by the local Rotary Club.

Program Highlights

The library held a Plant Swap in October to coincide with the local Garden Club's annual Open Gardens. This initiative was well supported by keen local gardeners and was a great way to showcase the gardening books in our collection.

Other adult programs have included Soap Making, Let's get Connected - an appointment based technology help service and a monthly craft group.

Children's school holiday programs included a Pokemon Drawing workshop with Matthew Lin, Dinosaur Explore program, Lay Creations and Galaxy String Art. After school programs have been popular with the weekly Lego Club and a new Kids Club focussing on resume writing workshops for our youth as well as Youth Mix- a weekly social gathering with fun and games. In January we held a Scavenger Hunt called Level Up- Game On or Game Over, which was well attended and lots of fun.

Kids Xpress

In the summer of 2020, the Dunn's Road Bushfire wreaked havoc and destruction across the Snowy Valleys Council area. In 2023 Kids Xpress reached out to the Snowy Valley Council libraries and donated an incredible amount of children's picture books and parenting books to each of our branches as well as a set for the Mobile Library that visits smaller towns. The books were specifically selected to help with mindfulness, wellbeing and to support Children's mental health.

Vicki Hulm - Library Services Coordinator

11,259
ITEMS
LOANED

830
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

6,893
COLLECTION
ITEMS

16,355
LIBRARY
VISITS



Cookies in a Jar Christmas Gifts

Tumut

Snowy Valleys Council Network of Libraries

Dolly's Dream

During May and June Tumut Library turned blue, in support of Dolly's Dream and Do it for Dolly Day. Blue books lined the display shelves in the adult section, children's books and resources that promoted kindness and wellbeing were displayed and the library was adorned with past and present Tumut Blues Rugby League Football jerseys.

Children from McAuley Catholic Central School and Tumut Public School were invited to the library for a tour and a Kindness Quilt activity decorated the library's front entrance. Over 480 children attended this initiative, all leaving with a library promotional bag and awareness of the effects bullying can have on others.

Program Highlights

The library held High Tea in February for Library Lovers Day. My Country Storytime with Uncle Pat Connolly was attended by Bright Horizons and Little Possums. The Tumut Preschool attended Chook Chook Storytime and enjoyed all the farmyard fun. Staff ran outreach programs and promotions at the Tumut Falling Leaf Festival and at Talbingo Snowy Hydro Meeting Room, while the Talbingo Public School visited the library for an excursion.

School holiday programs have been booked out and after-school programs continued strongly with Chess Club and Lego Club. Adult Programs and workshops were popular with Valmar Support Services attending fortnightly and Book Club, Senior Brain Games and a monthly craft group incorporated into the schedule this year.

End of an era

Two long term staff members retired in 2023. Library Assistant Leanne Ballard, fondly known as Duck, worked at the library for 17 years. Leanne was a highly respected member of the library team, who went above and beyond for her customers. A morning tea was organised for Leanne attended by the local community and council staff.

Coordinator for Library Services, Rhonda Twomey, worked in libraries for over 30 years and has a wealth of knowledge in the industry and in the wider Tumut region. She is well respected by her peers, with her farewell being attended by past and present Riverina Regional Library staff, Council Staff and the wider community. Rhonda is now enjoying working as a casual library assistant, spending time with her family, travelling, artistic endeavors and working on her farm.

Vicki Hulm - Library services Coordinator

25,227
ITEMS
LOANED

2,093
LIBRARY
MEMBERS

15,140
COLLECTION
ITEMS

39,745
LIBRARY
VISITS



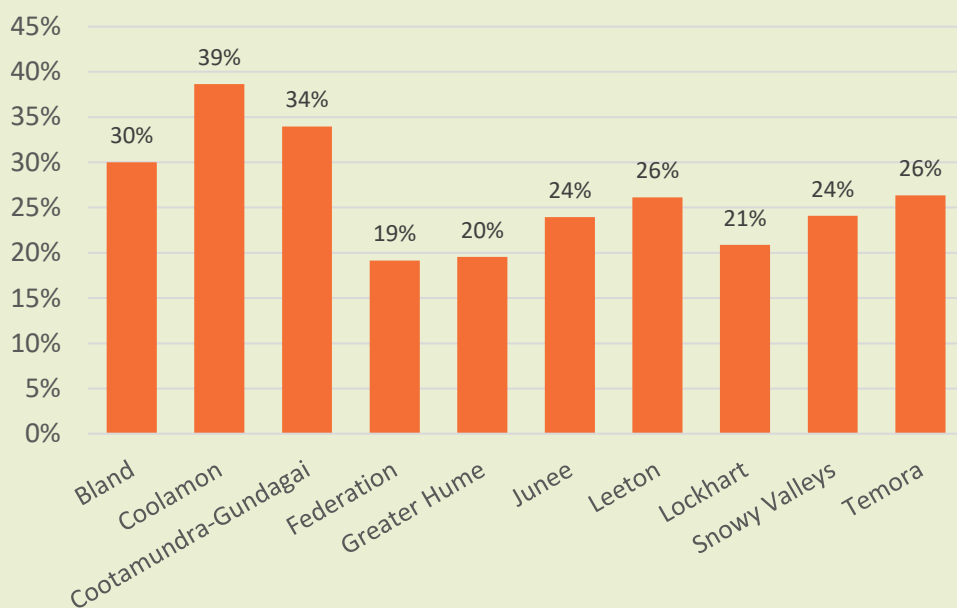
Outreach Programs in Talbingo

RRL STATISTICS 2023-2024

MEMBER COUNCIL POPULATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

COUNCIL	POP. NO.	POP %	CONTRIBUTION
Bland	5,542	6.3%	\$134,102
Coolamon	4,315	5.0%	\$139,034
Cootamundra - Gundagai	11,424	13.0%	\$267,056
Federation	12,899	14.7%	\$369,926
Greater Hume	11,157	12.8%	\$363,758
Junee	6,520	7.4%	\$148,819
Leeton	11,481	13.1%	\$253,495
Lockhart	3,319	3.8%	\$140,816
Snowy Valleys	14,901	17.0%	\$424,135
Temora	6,012	6.9%	\$156,840

Membership as % of Population



7,639
Donated Items



47
Book Clubs



29,566
Website Visits



45,000
KMs Travelled by Mobile Library



199
Book Club Kits

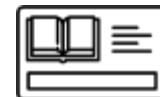
MEMBERS & LOANS

Council	Members	Loans	Loans per Capita
Bland	1,625	16,286	2.9
Coolamon	1,739	14,032	3.3
Cootamundra - Gundagai	3,984	39,642	3.5
Federation	2,715	29,790	2.3
Greater Hume	2,286	17,200	1.5
Junee	1,552	17,172	2.6
Leeton	3,121	19,129	1.7
Lockhart	686	5,092	1.5
Snowy Valleys	3,691	44,093	3.0
Temora	1,652	17,683	2.9



23,325
RRL Members

223,439
Total Items
Loaned



23,750
Total eBooks
Loaned

43,549
Total eAudio
Loaned



BRANCH LIBRARY STOCK

Library Branch	New Stock	Total Stock
Adelong	342	3,061
Batlow	521	5,260
Bland	1,109	12,753
Coolamon	871	6,455
Cootamundra	1,591	13,222
Corowa	1,317	10,619
Culcairn	387	3,485
Gundagai	566	9,206
Henty	491	3,897
Holbrook	492	4,858
Howlong	611	5,266
Jindera	232	1,439
Junee	1,247	14,334
Leeton	1,741	32,290
Mulwala	513	5,631
Temora	1,364	11,925
Tumbarumba	1,012	6,893
Tumut	1,474	15,140



6,493
Total eMagazine
Loaned

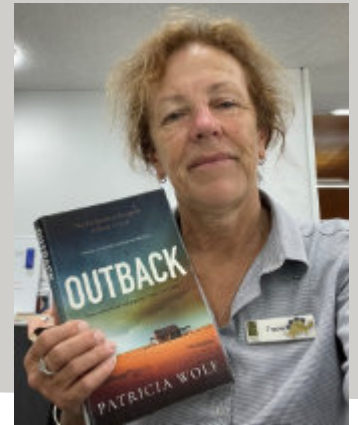
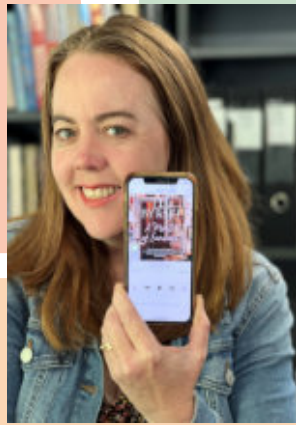


10,567
Internal Delivery
Service Tubs
Distributed

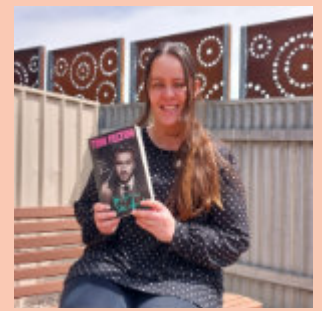
59,300Kms
Travelled by IDS
van



Collection
Items In **17,113**
Items Out **20,718**

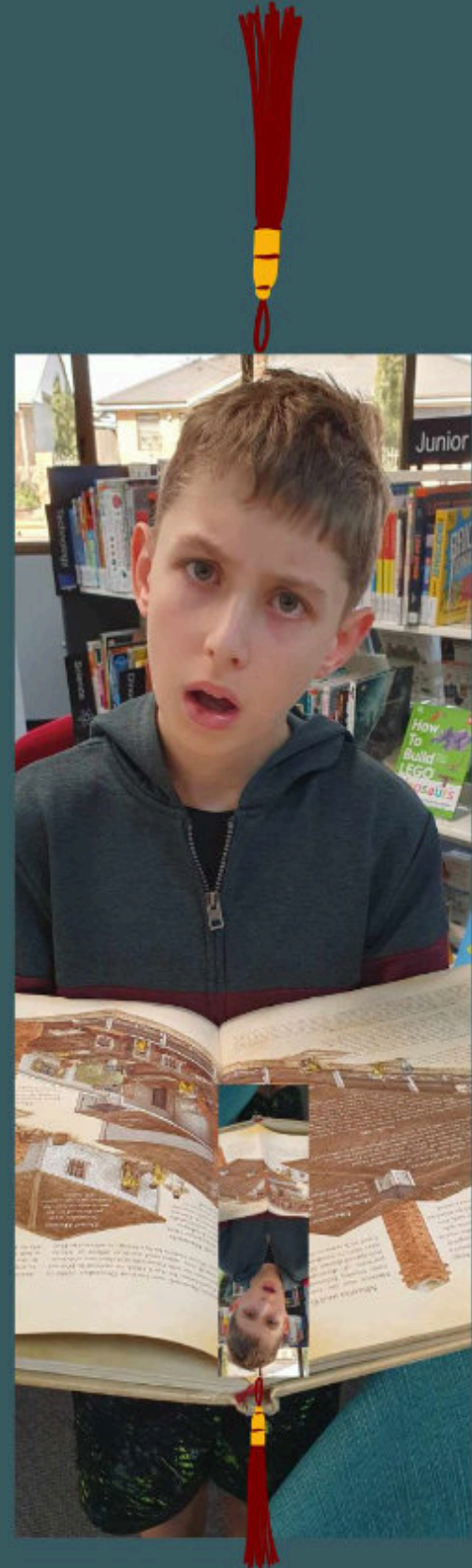
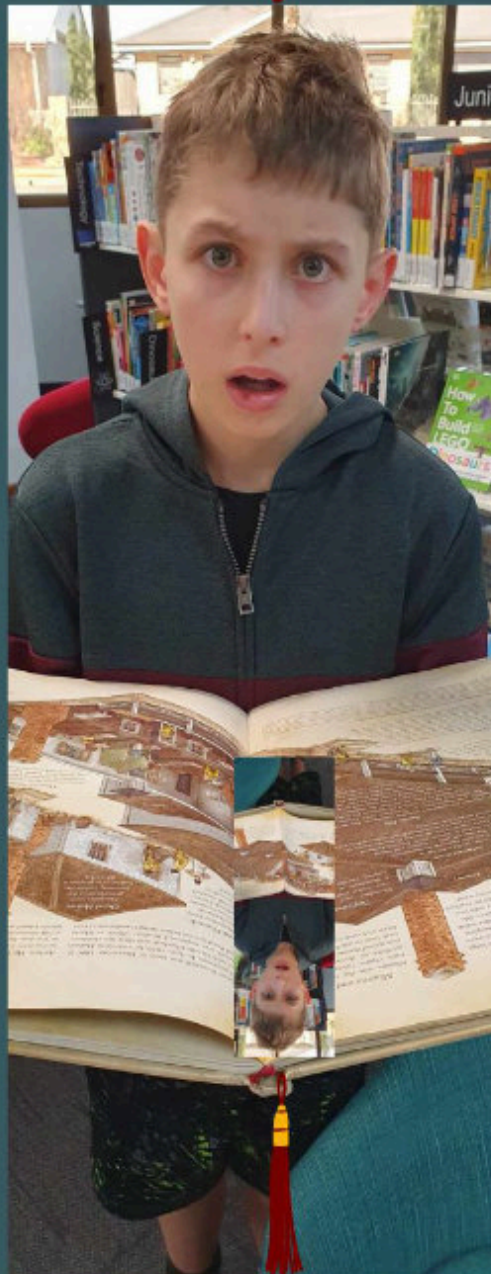
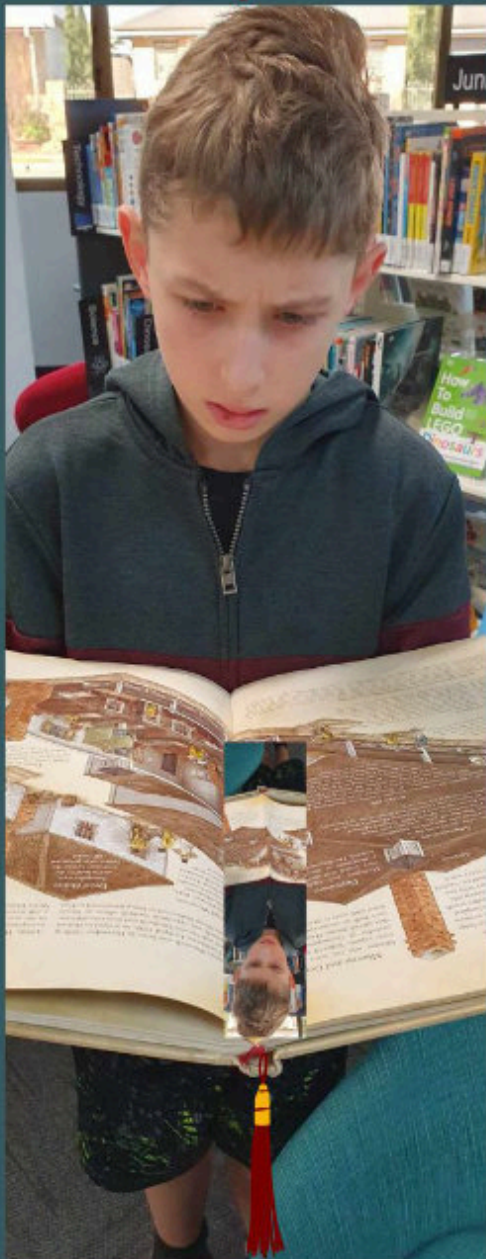


RRL Reads



"BOOKS AND DOORS ARE THE SAME THING. YOU OPEN THEM,
AND YOU GO THROUGH INTO ANOTHER WORLD."

— JEANETTE WINTERSON





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